



*The Office of the Commanding Officer
British Columbia Dragoons*

30 May 2020

To all Dragoons and members of the extended Regimental Family,

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Captain (Ret'd) Ed Dickins, CD. He passed peacefully in hospice Friday, 29 May 2020 at the age of 97 having lived a full and rich life.

Born in 1923, Ed moved to Kelowna in 1937 and enrolled as a Trooper in the British Columbia Dragoons almost 80 years ago on 27 July 1940. He served with the Regiment throughout World War II in England, Italy and Belgium and Holland, and despite being wounded, was among a small number of Dragoons who volunteered to join the Pacific Force. At the conclusion of WW II, he returned to civilian life in Kelowna and married the love of his life, Edith, in Oct 1945 and fathered three children Ted, Carol & Janice.

Ed rejoined the Dragoons shortly thereafter and served until 1965, after which he served with the 903 BC Dragoons Kelowna Cadet Corps as an instructor and then Commanding Officer until 1971. He subsequently returned to the Regiment as the Quartermaster until his retirement in 1975.

Since that time, Ed has volunteered and served in numerous positions in the community to include the President of Branch 26 Royal Canadian Legion, President of the BCD Regimental Association (Whizzbangs), President and founder of the Kelowna Veendam Sister City Association, Provincial President of Junior Chamber of Commerce, Co-Chair of the Kelowna Cenotaph Improvement Project, and founding Director of the Okanagan Military Museum Society.

He was a volunteer veteran representative at Remembrance services at twenty Senior's Homes for sixteen years, spoke to numerous schools about his military service, spoke to multiple Citizenship Ceremonies with respect to understanding the history of Canada, and at the age of 93 in 2016 assisted in the Okanagan Military Museum Society's refurbishment of a historic World War I field gun currently situated at the entrance to the museum in downtown Kelowna.

Most recently, Ed was recognized for his lifelong contributions to the community and was the recipient of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, the BC Medal of Good Citizenship and the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers, the latter of which was awarded during the Regimental Change of Command almost a year ago on 1 Jun 2019 by Colonel Tom Wolf (Ret'd).

The Regiment had the opportunity to honour Ed during the Gothic Line Mess Dinner last October where he spoke about his experiences and perspective to an audience which included the officers and non-commissioned members of the Regiment, serving and past, and a number of guests which included amongst other community and military leaders, Major-General MacKenzie, Chief of Reserves and Employer Support, Brigadier-General Awalt, Deputy Commander 3rd Canadian Division, and Colonel Ursich, Commander 39 Canadian Brigade Group. Ed would also have been honoured during this year's Memorial Cup should it have not been cancelled.

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Ed was a patriot, leader, mentor and icon of the Regiment who embodied strength, honour, integrity and humble professionalism. He was one of the very few surviving members of the Regiment who served during the actions at the Gothic Line. Ed – the objective is secure, rest easy.

Our thoughts are with Ed's family and friends during this difficult time. A service will be held at some point in the future when circumstances permit with full support from the Regiment.

Quansem Ilep...Always First.

Kevin J. Mead
Lieutenant-Colonel
Commanding Officer

David R. Moon
Chief Warrant Officer
Regimental Sergeant-Major

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